

2012 INVASIVE SPECIES SUMMIT
January 17 & 18
Montana Wild Center, Helena MT
Hosted by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Purpose: To provide guidance/direction/coordination for a comprehensive statewide AIS Program in 2012 and beyond. The Summit will focus on short term objectives and long term goals for key AIS program components.

Focus: Aquatic Invasive Species.

Format: Short presentations by panel members followed by panel discussion with group participation.

January 17 Moderator: Elizabeth Galli-Noble, Center for Invasive Plant Management

8:00-8:15. Welcome, introduction to the Summit (Fish, Wildlife & Parks)

8:15-9:15 **Keynote:** Jason Goeckler, Kansas Aquatic Nuisance Species Coordinator, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism. Jason brings a wealth of AIS experience; he is recognized as a national leader in AIS State Management and has extensive experience with Dreissenids (zebra and quagga mussels), Asian Carp, baitfish issues and as a past chair to the Mississippi River Basin Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species brings a thorough regional perspective to the issue. Jason will discuss lessons that Montana can learn from Kansas.

9:15-12:00 **Coordination and Leadership Panel:** Roles and Responsibilities of state and local agencies.

Panel Members: Ron de Yong, MDA; Ray Beck, DNRC; Eileen Ryce, FWP; Jeff Tiberi, MACD; Joanne Grady, USFWS, Chas Cartwright, FBC.

Presentations on the role of agencies and others in the Coordination and Leadership of AIS efforts in Montana and Regionally.

Outcomes:

- How do we increase coordination efforts in-state and regionally?
- How can we achieve better communication and transparency?
- How do we effectively involve partners?

12:00-1:00 Lunch, provided by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

1:00-3:00 **Outreach and Awareness Panel:** What's working, what's not. Is our outreach actually changing behavior?

Panel members: Bob Wiltshire, Invasive Species Action Network; Ron Aasheim, FWP; Ron Zellar, MDA; Jane Mangold, MSU Extension; Becky Kington MWCA.

Bob Wiltshire will provide a presentation on different Human Dimension aspects of Outreach and Awareness, including a discussion on how to change behavior. The other panel members will provide updates on their agency and organization outreach efforts.

Outcomes:

- What can we do to increase the effectiveness of our outreach?
- Identifying new marketing strategies
- Identifying what has worked and what is not working

3:00-5:00

Early Detection and Monitoring: Why do we do what we do?

Panel members: Celestine Duncan, Invasive Plant Consultant; Josh Gubits, Whitefish Lake Institute; Craig McLane, MDA; Stacy Schmidt, FWP; Ken Staigmiller, FWP

Each panel member will provide presentations on early detection and monitoring efforts from their respective agencies and organizations and will discuss their roles within the overall statewide AIS efforts.

Outcomes:

- Priorities for 2012
- Partner Opportunities
- Discussion of methods, what's working what's not
- Identify gaps within existing programs
- Identify research needs

5:00-6:00

Social hour in the lobby (no host bar)

6:00-8:00

Dinner, provided by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks.

Keynote: **Larry Riley**, Arizona Fish Chief, Arizona Fish and Game and Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Larry will provide insights into AIS from a Western Regional perspective and from the perspective of a state recently infested with Quagga mussels. Larry currently chairs the Invasive Species committee of the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

January 18 **Moderator:** Jeff Tiberi, Montana Association of Conservation Districts

8:00-10:30 **Watercraft Inspections Panel**

Panel members: Greg Ames, MDA; Linnaea Schroeer, FWP; Lee Anderson, FWP Enforcement; Erik Hanson, AIS Consultant.

Presentations will be given on the watercraft inspection programs within MDA and FWP including a discussion on enforcement issues. Erik Hanson will discuss watercraft inspections from the perspective of a local watershed group.

Outcomes:

- Priorities for 2012
- Partner Opportunities
- Discussion of methods, what's working what's not

10:30-12:00 **Response Panel:**

Panel members: Bruce Rich, FWP; Dave Burch, MDA; John Halpop, Sanders Co., Patricia Gilbert, USACE; Jim Darling, FWP.

Dave and Bruce will provide updates on each of their respective agency plans for response efforts including any response exercises that have occurred. John Halpop will provide a presentation on the EWM response effort in Sanders County and Patricia Gilbert will do the same for the USACOE on Fort Peck Reservoir. Jim Darling will give a brief update on permitting requirements.

Outcomes:

- Identification of roles during response efforts
- Plans for 2012 response exercises
- Programmatic EA discussion
- Research needs

12:00-1:00 Lunch, provided by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

1:00-2:00 **Response Panel**, continued

2:00-3:30 **Legislative issues:**

Panel members: John Youngberg, Montana Farm Bureau; Brianna Randall, Clark Fork Coalition; Mark Aagenes, Montana Trout Unlimited.

The Legislature plays a key role in Montana's AIS programs, from overseeing the agencies that administer the programs to providing the lion's share of funding that enable AIS education, prevention, detection, and response. These panel members all participated in the 2009 and 2011 Sessions, helping to put new AIS policies into place.

They will explore what steps the legislature has already taken, what AIS funding mechanisms the legislature may consider, and look to where the 2013 Legislature might be headed.

3:30-4:30 **Wrap-up**, Jeff Tiberi and Liz Galli-Noble

- Formation of working groups
- Next Steps